

510 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 JUN 1999

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 1-96)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 96.968US
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/319071
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/NL97/00660	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 02 DECEMBER 1997	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 02 DECEMBER 1996	
TITLE OF INVENTION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE SELECTIVE ACTIVATION OF ONE OR SEVERAL SOFTWARE AND/OR HARDWARE FUNCTIONS OF A PROGRAMMABLE DEVICE			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Ritske CLEWITS			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 			
Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409) International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) Form PCT/IB/308 Patent Application Data Entry Format Sheet 			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/NL/00660		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 96.968US	
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17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$ 970.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$840.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$760.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$670.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$96.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
				\$ 840	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 130	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	9 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$78.00	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 970	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 970	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 970	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 970. _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.


c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by
 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120. A duplicate
 copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR
 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Young & Thompson
 745 South 23rd Street
 2nd Floor
 Arlington, VA 22202
 (703) 521-2297

June 1, 1999


 SIGNATURE
 Benoit Castel
 NAME
 35,041
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

09/319071
510 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 JUN 1999

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Ritske CLEWITS

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE SELECTIVE
ACTIVATION OF ONE OR SEVERAL SOFTWARE
AND/OR HARDWARE FUNCTIONS OF A
PROGRAMMABLE DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation
of the filing fee, please amend these claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 1.

Claim 2, line 1, change "1," to --10,--.

Claim 4, line 1, change "1," to --10,--.

Claim 7, line 1, change "Claims 1 to 5." to --Claim
10.--.

Claim 8, line 1, change "Claims 1 to 5." to --Claim
10.--.

Claim 9, line 2, change "Claims 1 to 5." to --Claim
10.--.

Add the following new claim:

--10. A system for selective activation of one or
several software and/or hardware functions in a programmable

Ritske CLEWITS

device, comprising reading means capable of receiving an electronically readable information carrier characterized in that the information carrier comprises a programmable memory capable of storing a numerical value and in that the system comprising programming means capable of modifying said numerical value in accordance with the functions activated in the programmable device.--

R E M A R K S

The above changes in the claims merely place this national phase application in the same condition as it was during Chapter II of the international phase, with the multiple dependencies being removed. Following entry of this amendment, only claims 2-10 remain pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By



Benoît Castel
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,041
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703/521-2297

June 1, 1999

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))--SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

Docket Number (Optional)
96.968US

Applicant or Patentee: Ritske CLEWITS
Serial or Patent No.: 09/319,071
Filed or Issued: June 1, 1999
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE SELECTIVE ACTIVATION OF ONE OR SEVERAL SOFTWARE AND/OR HARDWARE FUNCTIONS OR A PROGRAMMABLE DEVICE

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☐ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN R. Clewits Beheer B.V.
ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Bleyenbeek 1
NL-1083 AH Amsterdam, The Netherlands

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

- ☐ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☒ the application identified above.
☐ the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention must file separate verified statements averring to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☐ no such person, concern, or organization exists.
☐ each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING R. Clewits

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER _____

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING Bleyenbeek 1

SIGNATURE [Signature] DATE 20/6/99

2PRTS

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System and method for the selective activation of one or several software and/or hardware functions of a programmable device

5 The invention relates to a system for the selective activation of one or several software and/or hardware functions of a programmable device, comprising at least temporarily a programmable device and programming means

10 The invention also relates to a method of selectively activating one or several software and/or hardware functions of a programmable device whereby at least one function is selected and activated.

15 Such a system and such a method are known and are used for simplifying the production of programmable devices. Only one type of device is produced instead of individual devices for each application and/or each wish of an end user. The device is then adapted to the wishes or demands of the end user in that functions are selectively activated in the device. It is thus possible to manufacture a wide range of devices in a uniform production process, each having its own specific price level.

20 A disadvantage of such a system is that it is up to the manufacturer himself to carry out the necessary programming so as to adapt the device to the end user's specific wishes, which may indeed not be known to the manufacturer in some cases. This is because a wholesale firm is often involved, with an intermediary salesman who is more or less far removed from the manufacturer maintaining the contact with the end user.

25 It is accordingly advisable to leave the programming to the relevant intermediary, but this renders it impossible for the manufacturer to see how many devices are programmed, and how many functions therein.

30 The manufacturer thus does not know what amount is due to him as payment for the activated functions.

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The invention has for its object to eliminate the above disadvantages. According to the invention, a system is for this purpose characterized in that the system at least temporarily also comprises reading means which are designed for reading an electronically readable information carrier comprising a programmable memory capable of containing a numerical value.

The electronically readable information carrier, for example a chip card, is provided with a certain credit amount and is delivered by the manufacturer to, for example, an intermediate trader, and paid for by the latter. Whenever a function is activated, a corresponding amount is subtracted from the credit amount on the electronically readable information carrier. The intermediate trader programs the programmable device in accordance with the end user's wishes and buys a fresh electronically readable information carrier from the manufacturer after the full credit amount has been written off this carrier, or has the carrier reprogrammed at the manufacturer's, so that the latter is always paid for the activated functions. An additional advantage for the end user is that he will only pay for functions actually activated and not for any functions not (yet) activated, while still retaining the possibility of having additional functions activated later. This enables the manufacturer to keep an eye on the activated functions without the necessity of programming the programmable devices himself or of activating the functions desired by the end user. The manufacturer as it were provides the end user with a software licensing card for all functions present on the programmable device, a certain value being debited to the card's account whenever one or several functions is or are activated.

EP-A-0 594 493 describes a method and a computer system for obtaining software by means of a microcomputer. The system for this purpose comprises a database in which the software to be used is stored and a detachable storage carrier which contains an access right. This latter carrier can be inserted into a reading device of the microcomputer for enabling a loading of software, for which the carrier contains the relevant access rights, from the database to the microcomputer. The carrier may also contain rights for implementing the loaded software.

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EP-A-0 530 601 describes the use of data carrier cards which enable an activation of individual appliance functions of an electronic appliance. The electronic appliance here comprises a circuit arrangement with one or several circuits for putting into action a number of functions of the appliance. The functions to be carried out by the circuit arrangement can be activated by means of the data carrier card.

A major difference between the latter two systems and the system according to the present invention is that said latter two systems use configuration cards which are adapted to the specific wishes of the end user. These cards are capable of activating certain, predetermined functions of the programmable device only. The cards have to be specially manufactured for the end user, which is labour-intensive. In the system according to the invention, on the other hand, an electronically readable information carrier is used which is capable of activating any function of the programmable device while at the same time debiting the card's account for the amount due.

A special embodiment of a system according to the invention is characterized in that the programmable device comprises the programming means and the reading means.

This means that the wholesaler only needs an electronically readable information carrier in order to program the programmable device in accordance with the end user's wishes.

In particular, the programmable device is an automatic payment machine.

Since an automatic payment machine comprises reading means, it is possible to activate or additionally activate one or several functions of the automatic payment machine, provided it is also fitted with programming means, by means of no more than an electronically readable information carrier.

A further special embodiment of system according to the invention is characterized in that the programmable device is coupled at least temporarily to separate programming

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means, which programming means comprise the reading means and, at least temporarily, the electronically readable information carrier.

5 If the programmable device does not comprise the programming means, it is favourable to accommodate these programming means together with the card reader means in one unit into which the wholesaler subsequently inserts the electronically readable information carrier for the purpose of programming.

10 A particular embodiment of a system according to the invention is characterized in that the programmable device is a timer.

Such a timer may be used, for example, with a suntanning couch, a shower at a camping, etc. More or fewer functions of the timer may be activated in dependence on the application. A timer for a shower, for example, is often of a simple construction and
15 need only determine the maximum shower time and possibly the use per unit time, whereas a timer for a suntanning couch, for example, monitors a warming-up time, a suntanning time, and the total number of hours of operation. Thanks to the system according to the invention, it is now possible for the manufacturer to deliver the same timer to the two customer groups, possibly each at its own specific price, while
20 nevertheless the customer pays only for the functions he actually obtains.

The invention also relates to a method of selectively activating one or several software and/or hardware functions of a programmable device whereby at least one function is selected and activated. This method is characterized in that the programmable device is
25 at least temporarily coupled to programming means which are coupled to reading means, and in that the reading means cooperate with an electronically readable information carrier on which a value is stored, while after the activation of a function a corresponding value is debited.

30 This method will usually be carried out by a wholesaler or intermediary who has bought the electronically readable information carrier from the manufacturer. It is also possible

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for a (large-scale) end user to carry out the programming himself after buying an electronically readable information carrier, a programmable device, and possibly programming means and reading means from the manufacturer. This constitutes an additional advantage of the system and the method according to the invention. The manufacturer can offer these facilities to major end users since the payment takes place on the basis of activated functions anyway.

The invention also relates to a programmable device, programming means, and an electronically readable information carrier for use in a system according to the invention.

The electronically readable information carrier may be, for example, a chip card which comprises a programmable memory capable of containing a numerical value. Besides a decrementable amount, the chip card comprises at least one program for activating a function of the programmable device.

The invention will now be explained in more detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 diagrammatically shows an embodiment of a system according to the invention, and

Fig. 2 diagrammatically shows an embodiment of a programmable device according to the invention in greater detail.

Fig. 1 diagrammatically shows an embodiment of a system S according to the invention for the selective activation of one or several software and/or hardware functions of an electronic device. The system comprises a programmable device 1 which has been provided at the manufacturer's with any number of functions in the form of modules which might be desired by the end users. The modules, however, have not yet been activated, but they are activated on demand by the supplier (wholesaler) against payment.

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The system further comprises programming means 3 which activate the desired module(s) of the programmable device 1. The programming means may be incorporated into the programmable device in some applications (referenced 1a).

- 5 The system finally comprises reading means 5 which in this embodiment are constructed as card reader means suitable for reading an electronically readable information carrier, for example a programmable card 7. The card reader means may also be incorporated into the programmable device in some applications (referenced 1b), for example in an automatic payment machine. The programmable card in this
- 10 embodiment comprises a programmable memory capable of retaining a numerical value. During programming, i.e. selecting and activating, of the programmable device 1, the programmable card 7 is placed in the card reader means 5 which are coupled to the programming means 3.
- 15 To ensure that the manufacturer of the programmable device receives payment for the number of functions activated, the programmable card is issued by the manufacturer and provided with a certain credit amount. It is also stored on the card how much is to be debited from the amount for each function to be activated, which may be different for different functions. The wholesaler can now program each programmable device as
- 20 desired by the end user and have this user pay for this. After the credit amount on the card has been used up, the user must either have the card recharged at the manufacturer's against payment, or buy a new card.

25 The programmable device 1 may be constructed, for example, as an automatic payment machine, for example for use in shops. More or fewer functions may be programmed in dependence on the end user's wishes. For example, the automatic payment machine may thus be made compatible with post giro cards, rechargeable cash cards, credit cards, etc.

30 The programmable device may alternatively be constructed, for example, as a timer for use with, for example, a shower, a suntanning couch, etc. The programmable device will usually not comprise the programming means in this application, and the timer will have

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to be programmed in accordance with the end user's wishes. A timer for a shower, for example on a camping, is usually of a simple construction and only determines the shower-taking time and possibly the use of the relevant shower (for example, per day, week, month, etc.). A timer for a suntanning installation in business surroundings, on the other hand, is to monitor and/or register several time periods such as, for example, a

5 warming-up time, an effective tanning time, and the number of hours of operation.

Fig. 2 diagrammatically shows an embodiment of a programmable device 1 in accordance with Fig. 1 in more detail. In this embodiment, the programmable device

10 comprises five modules 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 in which the respective functions are present. Each of these functions can be activated by the supplier, as desired, after payment by the end user. Fig. 2 shows that the modules 11 and 13 have been activated "A", and the modules 12, 14 and 15 have not.

15 It will be obvious that the system and the method according to the invention may be adapted in a variety of ways without departing from the scope of the invention. Thus the programming means and the (card) reading means may be integrated with the programmable device, as was noted above.

20 Furthermore, the electronically readable information carrier, for example a programmable card, may be adapted in various ways and may be constructed as a chip card, for example a rechargeable cash card or otherwise, as long as due payments are made to the manufacturer for the activated functions, i.e. it should not be possible to use a card not issued by the relevant manufacturer for activating a programmable device

25 sold by this manufacturer.

It is also possible, for example, to rent out or lease the programmable devices, in which case the system according to the invention renders it possible not only to activate functions, but also to deactivate functions and to base the renting or leasing bill on the

30 number of functions activated. It is in addition possible, for example, to deactivate a

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function by not debiting the card with a certain amount, or by debiting it with a lesser amount.

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Claims

1. A system for the selective activation of one or several software and/or hardware
5 functions of a programmable device, comprising at least temporarily a programmable
device and programming means, characterized in that the system at least temporarily
also comprises reading means which are designed for receiving an electronically
readable information carrier comprising a programmable memory capable of containing
a numerical value.
- 10 2. A system as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the programmable device
comprises the programming means and the reading means.
3. A system as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the programmable device
15 is an automatic payment machine.
4. A system as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the programmable device
is coupled at least temporarily to separate programming means, which programming
means comprise the reading means and, at least temporarily, the electronically readable
20 information carrier.
5. A system as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that the programmable device
is a timer.
- 25 6. A method of selectively activating one or several software and/or hardware
functions of a programmable device whereby at least one function is selected and
activated, characterized in that the programmable device is at least temporarily coupled
to programming means which are coupled to reading means, and in that the reading
means cooperate with an electronically readable information carrier on which a value is
30 stored, while after the activation of a function a corresponding value is debited.

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7. A programming device suitable for use in a system as claimed in Claims 1 to 5.
8. Programming means suitable for use in a system as claimed in Claims 1 to 5.
- 5 9. An electronically readable information carrier suitable for use in a system as claimed in Claims 1 to 5.

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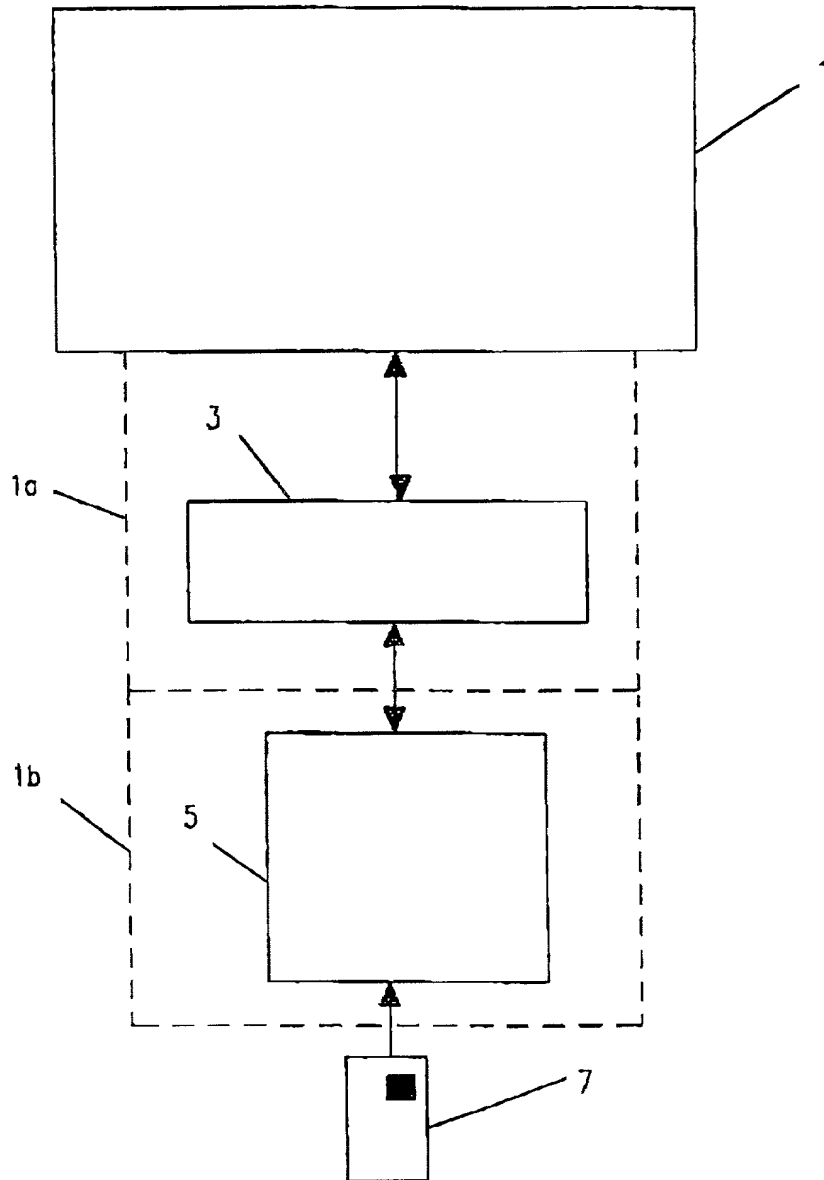


FIG. 1

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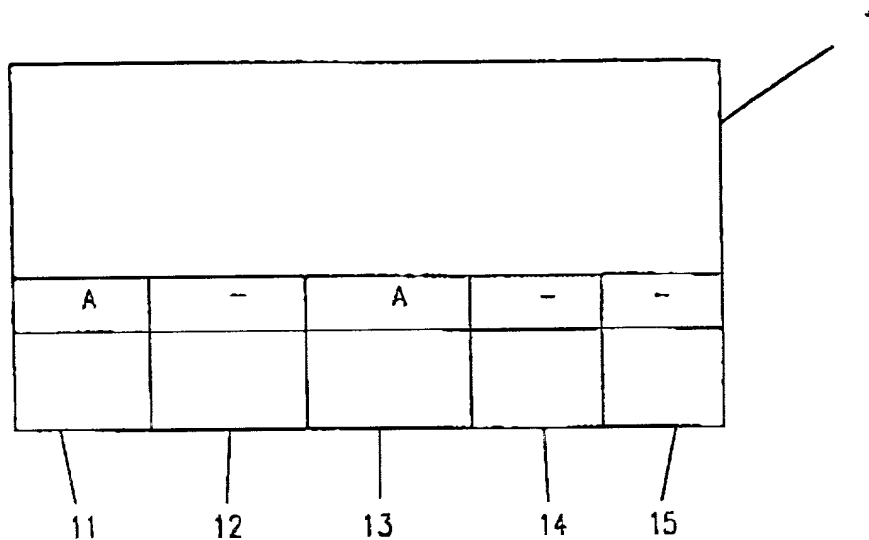


FIG. 2

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE SELECTIVE ACTIVATION OF ONE OR SEVERAL SOFTWARE AND/OR HARDWARE FUNCTIONS OF A PROGRAMMABLE DEVICE

the specification of which: *(check one)*

REGULAR OR DESIGN APPLICATION

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on June 1, 1999 as application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STAGE

☒ was described and claimed in International application No. PCT/NL97/00660 filed on 02 December 1997 and as amended on _____ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed
The Netherlands	1004658	02 December 1996	Yes

(Complete this part only if this is a continuing application.)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from Octrooibureau LIOC BV as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the registered patent attorneys represented by Customer No. 000466 to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, including: **Robert J. PATCH, Reg. No. 17,355, Andrew J. PATCH, Reg. No. 32,925, Robert F. HARGEST, Reg. No. 25,590, Benoît CASTEL, Reg. No. 35,041, Eric JENSEN, Reg. No. 37,855, Thomas W. PERKINS, Reg. No. 33,027, and Roland E. LONG, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949, c/o YOUNG & THOMPSON, Second Floor, 745 South 23rd Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202.**

Address all telephone calls to Young & Thompson at 703/521-2297. Telefax: 703/685-0573.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor: Ritske CLEWITS
(given name, family name)

Inventor's signature _____

Date 28/6/99

Residence: Amsterdam, The Netherlands NLX

Citizenship: The Netherlands

Post Office Address: Bleyenbeek 1
NL-1083 AH Amsterdam, The Netherlands